Amendments to the Claims:

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A recording medium comprising:

a substrate;

a recording layer disposed on the substrate; and

a lubricating layer disposed on the recording layer, wherein the lubricating layer comprises fluorinated carbon and a thermally stabilizing dopant[[,]] comprising N ~~and has a thickness of less than 10 nm~~.

Claim 2 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant is present in an amount of at least 3 atomic % of the lubricating layer.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim [[3]]1, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant is present in an amount from about 10 atomic % to about 13 atomic %.

Claim 6 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant comprises a compound containing N.

Claim 7 (original): The recording medium of claim 6, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant comprises NH_3.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant further comprises Si.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant further comprises a Si-containing compound.

Claim 10 (original): The recording medium of claim 9, wherein the compound containing Si is selected from the group consisting of SI, SiO_2 and SiH_4.

Claim 11 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the lubricating layer is thermally stable above a temperature of 250°C.

Claim 12 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the lubricating layer is thermally stable at a temperature of 300°C.

Claim 13 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, further comprising a buffer layer disposed between the recording layer and the lubricating layer.

Claim 14 (original): The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the buffer layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a-C:H, a-C:N, a-C:H, N, SiC and B_4C.

Claim 15 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording layer is an optical recording layer.

Claim 16 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording layer is a hard magnetic recording layer.

Claim 17 (original): The recording medium of claim 16, wherein the recording medium further comprises a soft magnetic layer under the hard magnetic recording layer.

Claim 18 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein said recording layer is a magneto-optical recording layer.

Claim 19 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a thermally assisted magnetic recording medium.

Claim 20 (original): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is an optically assisted magnetic recording medium.

Claims 21-30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A lubricated article comprising a substrate and a lubricant disposed on the substrate, wherein the lubricant comprises fluorinated carbon and a dopant comprising N ~~and/or Si, and has a thickness of less than 10 nm~~.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (original): The lubricated article of claim 31, wherein the dopant is present in an amount from about 3 atomic % to about 13 atomic % of the lubricant.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method of magnetic recording comprising:

providing a magnetic recording head;

providing a magnetic recording medium; and

moving the magnetic recording medium in relation to the head to thereby record data, wherein the magnetic recording medium comprises a lubricating layer including fluorinated carbon and a thermally stabilizing dopant[[,]] comprising N ~~and has a thickness of less than 10 nm~~.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of magnetic recording of claim 34, wherein the thermally stabilizing dopant [[is]] further comprises SiO_2.

Claim 37 (original): The method of magnetic recording of claim 34, wherein the lubricating layer is thermally stable at a temperature above 250°C.

Claim 38 (original): The method of magnetic recording of claim 34, wherein the lubricating layer is thermally stable at a temperature of 300°C.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of from 1 to 5 nm.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (previously presented): The lubricated article of claim 31, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of from 1 to 5 nm.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of the claim 34, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of from 1 to 5 nm.

Claim 43 (new): The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of less than 10 nm.

Claim 44 (new): The lubricated article of claim 31, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of less than 10 nm.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the lubricating layer has a thickness of less than 10 nm.